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REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-32 are pending in the application. Claims 1-32 have been rejected.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 9-12, 14-17, 19-22, 24-27 and 29-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being anticipated by Jewell et al. (U.S. 7,075,564 B1) in view of Inagaki (US 2002/0051069 A1). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims over Jewell in view of Inagaki. Applicants respectfully assert that the Examiner failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness by failing to show any motivation or suggestion to combine the teachings of the two cited references. Furthermore, even if the Examiner had shown motivation to combine the cited references, **the combination would neither have taught nor suggested all the limitations of independent claims 1, 9, 14, 19, 24, 29 and 31-32.** More specifically, Jewell fails to teach “...a unit external to said host computer and connected to said host computer via an external bus...” as recited in all pending independent claims. Jewell actually teaches away from this recited limitation, by teaching the transfer of video data from a video acquisition device to the circuit board via a video in line, and the circuit board, after compression of the video data, transmitting the data to a remote location via a modem. Applicant respectfully asserts that the Examiner has confused a circuit board including a bus, as taught by Jewell, with the host computer recited in the pending independent claims. **Jewell makes no mention of a host computer at all.**

More specifically, independent claims 1, 9, 14, 19, 24, 29 and 31-32, respectively, recite:

1. “A multimedia communication system comprising:

a host computer; and

a unit external to said host computer and connected to said host computer via an external bus, said unit configured to capture a video stream from a video input device, to convert said captured video stream according to a predetermined standard for transmitting video over a network, and to send said converted video stream to said host computer via said external bus,

wherein said host computer is configured to display content of said converted video stream on a local video output device and substantially concurrently to send said content of said converted video stream for a remote display.”

9. “A multimedia communication system for a **host computer having an external bus** and connected to a video output device, the system comprising:

a unit external to said host computer and connected to said host computer via said external bus, said unit configured to capture a video stream from a video input device, to convert said captured video stream according to a predetermined standard for transmitting video over a network, and to send said converted video stream to said host computer via said external bus;

a software video decoder installed on said host computer, said software video decoder configured to decode said converted video stream for display by said video output device; and

wherein said host computer is configured to display content of said converted video stream on a local video output device and substantially concurrently to send said content of said converted video stream for remote display.”

14. “A multimedia communication system for a **host computer having an external bus** and connected to a video output device, said host computer connected to a network and configured to receive via said network at least one encoded video stream, the system comprising:

a unit external to said host computer and connected to said host computer via said external bus, said unit configured to capture a raw video stream from a video input device, to convert said captured video stream according to a predetermined standard for transmitting video over a network, and to send said converted video stream to said host computer via said external bus;

a software video decoder installed on said host computer, said software video decoder configured to decode at least one of said at least one encoded video stream for display by said video output device; and

wherein said host computer is configured to display content of said converted video stream on a local video output device and substantially concurrently to send said content of said converted video stream for remote display.”

19. “A multimedia communication system for **a host computer having an external bus** and connected to a video output device, said host computer connected to a network and configured to receive via said network at least one encoded video stream, the system comprising:

a unit external to said host computer and connected to said host computer via said external bus, said unit configured to capture a video stream from a video input device, to convert said captured video stream according to a predetermined standard for transmitting video over a network, and to send said converted video stream to said host computer via said external bus, said unit also configured to compress said captured video stream, and to send said compressed video stream to said host computer via said external bus;

a first software video decoder installed on said host computer, said first software video decoder configured to decode at least one of said at least one encoded video stream for display by said video output device;

a second software video decoder installed on said host computer, said second software video decoder configured to decompress said compressed video stream for display by said video output device; and

wherein said host computer is configured to display content of said converted video stream on a local video output device and substantially concurrently to send said content of said converted video stream for remote display.”

24. “A multimedia communication system for a host computer having an application installed thereon, said application having data associated therewith, **said host computer having an external bus**, the system comprising:

a unit external to said host computer and connected to said host computer via said external bus, said unit configured to capture a video stream from a video input device, to convert said captured video stream according to a predetermined standard for transmitting video over a network, and to send said converted video stream to said host computer via said external bus;

a software multiplexer installed on said host computer for multiplexing said converted video stream with said data; and

wherein said host computer is configured to display content of said converted video stream on a local video output device and substantially concurrently to send said content of said converted video stream for remote display.”

29. “A method for multimedia communication, the method comprising the steps of:
capturing a video stream from a video input device;
converting said video stream according to a predetermined standard for transmitting video over a network;

sending said converted video stream to **a host computer via an external bus of said host computer**;

decoding said converted video stream in said host computer;
displaying content of said decoded video stream on a local output video device;
sending said converted video stream to a remote terminal over a network; and
wherein displaying content of said converted video stream on a local video output device and sending said content of said converted video stream for a remote display is performed substantially concurrently.”

31. "A multimedia communication system comprising:

a host computer;

a unit external to said host computer and connected to said host computer via an external bus, said unit configured to capture a video stream from a video input device, to convert said captured video stream according to a predetermined standard for transmitting video over a network, and to send said converted video stream to said host computer via said external bus,

wherein said host computer further comprises a decoder configured to decode said converted video stream for display by a local video output device and to concurrently decode a second coded video stream received from a remote video source for display by said local video output device; and

wherein said host computer is configured to display content of said converted video stream on a local video output device and substantially concurrently to send said content of said converted video stream for remote display."

32. "A multimedia communication system comprising:

a host computer;

a unit external to said host computer and connected to said host computer via an external bus, said unit configured to capture a video stream from a video input device, to convert said captured video stream according to a predetermined standard for transmitting video over a network, and to send said converted video stream to said host computer via said external bus,

wherein said unit is configured to capture an audio stream from a local audio input device, and to send said audio stream to said host computer via said external bus, said host computer further comprises a decoder configured to decode a converted audio stream from a remote audio coded source for play by a local audio output device and to concurrently play said audio stream from said local audio input device by said local audio output device; and

wherein said host computer is configured to display content of said converted video stream on a local video output device and substantially concurrently to send said content of said converted video stream for remote display."

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Whereas the primary cited reference teaches:

"A video conferencing circuit (12) is configured to receive an input (26) from one of a plurality of video input devices. The video signal is then stored, compressed and transmitted by an interface circuit such as a modem (18). Video signals from a remote location are received from the modem (18), decompressed, stored and then transferred for display on one of a plurality of video output devices." (Jewell Abstract)

And whereas the secondary cited reference teaches:

"An apparatus for displaying an image captured by a video camera displays a window of the captured image, buttons displayed about the window for scrolling the image, and a sizing button displayed adjacent the window for enlarging/reducing the size of the window. If an operator wishes to pan, tilt or zoom the video camera, the operator manipulates the scroll buttons and sizing button for scrolling the image horizontally or vertically and sizing the window. The apparatus causes the camera to tilt or pan in accordance with the scrolling of the window by the scrolling operation and causes the camera to zoom in or out in accordance with the sizing operation. The apparatus is adapted to display an icon which is a miniature image of the image captured by the video camera. When this icon is selected, the application using the video camera is started. The icon is not displayed if the video camera is operating abnormally." (Inagaki Abstract)

In view of the above excerpts from the present application and the cited references, Applicant respectfully asserts that the Examiner failed to show a suggestion or motivation to combine the teachings of the cited references at the time of the invention. After careful review of the cited references, Applicant respectfully asserts that the Examiner has misinterpreted their teachings and has erroneously inferred subject matter that is neither taught nor suggested therein. More specifically, Jewell fails to teach "...a unit external to said host computer and connected to said host computer via an external bus..." as recited in all pending independent claims. Jewell actually teaches away from this recited

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limitation, by teaching the transfer of a video data from a video acquisition device to the circuit board via a video in line, and the circuit board, after compression of the video data, transmitting the data to a remote location via a modem.

The only similarity between the teachings of Jewell and the above recited limitation of the pending claims, relates solely to the external unit. In other words, the entire teachings of Jewell address only the functionality of the external unit claimed in the pending claims. However, even with respect to the external unit, there is **a major distinction found in the fact that the circuit of Jewell is not adapted to communication with a host computer, but rather adapted to transmit the video data directly to a remote conferencing system via MODEM.** The circuit taught by Jewell teaches a video output, however, Jewell makes no mention or suggestion of having a **local host computer adapted to receive from an external unit (over a bus)** video data already adapted by the external unit for transmission over a network.

Furthermore, Jewell makes no mention of a host computer receiving over a bus network ready data from an external unit and displaying the video on a local display while transmitting the data to a remote display.

Applicant respectfully asserts that an adequate consideration of the prior art cited by the Examiner as a whole, could not have been used to establish sufficient implicit teaching, motivation, or suggestion of the present invention. Furthermore, even if the Examiner had shown motivation to combine the two cited references, the combination would not have covered all the limitations of the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that the considerable distinctions shown above, between the teachings of Jewell and the pending claims cannot be remedied with the introduction of the Inagaki reference, in an attempt to fill in the gaps.

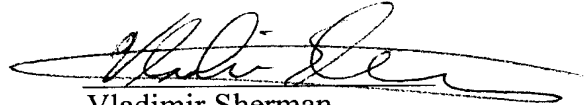
In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 8, 13, 18, 23 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Jewell in view of Inagaki and further in view of Clapp et al. (US 5,802,281). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims over Jewell in view of Inagaki and further in view of Clapp, because a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established. Furthermore, in light of the foregoing remarks

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regarding the 103 rejections of independent claims, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 8, 13, 18, 23 and 28 are considered allowable under 35 U.S.C. § 103 by virtue of their dependence on allowable base claims.

In view of the foregoing clarifications and remarks, all the pending claims are considered to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vladimir Sherman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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Dated: January 29, 2009